

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

(MORNING, EVENING AND SUNDAY.)

—BY—

THE WASHINGTON TIMES COMPANY.
HUTCHINS BUILDING.

NORTHEAST CORNER D AND TENTH STS.

Telephone—Editorial Rooms, 482.
Business Office, 36A.Price—Morning and Evening Editions, One Cent.
Sunday Edition, Three Cents.Monthly, by Carrier—
Morning and Sunday, Thirty-five Cents.
Evening, Thirty Cents.
FIFTY CENTS
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BY MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID.

Morning, Evening and Sunday, 50c.
Morning and Sunday, 35c.
Evening and Sunday, 35c.

The Times has a regular and permanent family circulation much greater than any other paper, morning or evening, published in Washington. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 9, 1897.

Fire Record for 1896.

The New York Journal of Commerce announces that fire insurance losses in the United States and Canada during the calendar year 1896, amounted to \$115,655,500, or \$14,184,200 less than in 1895, and \$12,590,900 less than in 1894. The great fires of the year were at Cripple Creek, with loss amounting to \$2,000,000; Ontonagon, loss \$1,750,000; Philadelphia, loss \$1,400,000, and Chicago, loss \$1,200,000. Generally speaking, 1896 covered a period of high rates and light losses, and the underwriting interest stands upon the business of the new year in good financial condition and with a feeling of hopefulness as to the future.

The fire record for the year so recently closed is both interesting and encouraging. Insurance experience of earlier days led to the opinion, which has crystallized into nearly a professional dogma, that, on the average, fire losses increase or decrease in close correspondence with the expansion or contraction of average business prosperity. Measured by this standard the important decrease noted in the losses for 1896, compared with those for the twelvemonth preceding, is suggestive of some improvement in mercantile and cottage industries considered in the aggregate. If that be not a remarkable deduction, then either the preventive and protective organization of the insurance interest has advanced nearer to perfection, or the world is growing less careless and more honest.

From a local business point of view, the return are satisfactory. If the history of fire losses in 1896 had produced results unfavorable to the companies our merchants and property owners might have had to face a new crescendo movement in rates. Under existing circumstances such a thing would hardly be likely to occur.

Pinegrove in the Senate.

It is said that Hiram S. Pinckney, governor of Michigan, mayor of Detroit, and reformer in general, will set out at once after a Senatorial seat. Whether he will seek the seat of Senator Burrows in 1899 or that of Senator McMillan in 1901 is an open question. He would naturally prefer the one that comes to hand first; but there are geographical considerations, aside from the fact that he has friendly relations with Mr. Burrows, that will tend to procrastinate his effort until the dawn of the twentieth century. The feeling that exists between the senator from Michigan and the governor is one of cordial and enthusiastic dislike, and a contest between them would attract great attention in the State. Senator McMillan is and has been since the day, twenty years ago, when he took the party reins from the dead hand of Chandler, the most formidable figure in Michigan politics. It is not certain that he will stand for reelection four years hence, but Michigan men say that if he does Mr. Pinckney will find he has run up against the fight of his life. And as fights are very much to the liking of His Honor of Detroit and His Excellency of Lansing there are, in that event, lively times ahead in the Peninsular State. Gov. Pinckney's proposition to have the legislature abolish all conventions and caucuses and substitute primary elections is in full keeping with his theory that he stands a better chance with voters than with delegates. He has never yet lost an election, but he has been down brown in several scorching State conventions, where he ran up against the McMillan organization.

Those Chinese Concessions.

Hardly had publication been made in the United States of the fact that Senator Bruce, ex-Senator Washington and others were on the point of completing negotiations with the Chinese government for the construction and control of the railway, telegraph and telephone systems of the empire than it is said, the parties most interested received an intimation by cable that their progress had been suddenly obstructed by some influence at Peking.

It is reported that members of Senator Bruce's Chinese syndicate suspect the cause of trouble to lie in the cutters of an old alleged feud between the late Gen. Grant and Mr. Washburn, which the former's family may have fanned into flames for the purpose of burning the latter's chances of success in the proposed great adventure. Whether they or any of them think so or not, upon its face the story appears to The Times to be too silly for serious consideration. Without good proof to the contrary the people of this country would refuse to think that the family of a man who was splendidly identified with its history and correspondingly honored by it would, if they could, use a personal grudge to defeat a project of great importance to American interests, and the future extension of American commercial and industrial influence in the Celestial Empire.

It is probable that the real occasion of

the trouble may be looked for more successfully in quite a different direction. About a decade ago another American party came very near to the consummation of much the same deal with China. There was an understanding with the proper influences near the emperor's court, and the preliminaries had been completed. An agent of the American interest, who had been on the ground, returned with the assurances and documents necessary to place his principals in position to bring the matter formally to a close. But he stopped a day in San Francisco and talked to a newspaper man. Before he could take the train that night, news of the negotiation had been sent from California to the British legation in Washington, transmitted to the British foreign office, and received with instructions at the British legation in China. The game was blocked.

As The Times heretofore has hinted, the British and European determination to control every feature of possible material development in China will surely operate to create strong opposition whenever anything like the negotiation of the Bruce syndicate shall reach the ears of the watchful governments across the Atlantic.

Pour Prendre Conge.

However opinions may differ as to the political features of Mr. Cleveland's second administration, as long as the present generation lives to remember there will be but one concerning the success, brilliancy, and graciousness of the second social reign of Mrs. Cleveland. Whether regarded as wife, mother, or first lady of a republican court, the lovely and accomplished consort of the present President of the United States, receives and deserves more than royal respect and honor at the hands of the nation for the worthy and gentle character of her rule, to which, indeed, additional luster has been added by the charming and honored ladies who form the social ministry of our First Lady, as their husbands or fathers constitute the Cabinet of her good man.

In preparation, perhaps, for a leave-taking soon to occur, which everybody will regret, the illustrious lady referred to, together with her distinguished Cabinet, on Monday last sat for the photograph portrait which is to represent in history the circle as it existed at the end of the current administration. On the morning of the day named, Mrs. Cleveland and the other ladies met at the attractive studio of Miss Johnstone, who, by reason of her extraordinary talent in this direction, had been selected to execute the pictures, and spent some hours in pleasant and unconventional enjoyment of its art treasures, bric-a-brac, and their own society.

A corner of Miss Johnstone's charming studio made a beautiful setting for the posers, who were grouped near the large open fireplace. At Mrs. Cleveland's right hand sat Mrs. Olney, with Miss Herbert standing next in a graceful attitude. At Mrs. Cleveland's left were Mrs. Carlisle, Mrs. Harmon, and Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Lament stood just back of Mrs. Cleveland, on the right, while on the left Mrs. Francis and Miss Morton completed the rear line, standing. All were in the gowns worn at the New Year reception at the White House. In the background were three of the pictures which were exhibited by Miss Johnstone at the London salon last year; while above appeared a bric-a-brac shelf upon which, at the angle of the room, stood an antique Italian vase of bronze, and other curios from many countries, arranged with exquisite taste.

After the group had been successfully posed Mrs. Cleveland sat for a new portrait, the first which has been taken in Washington since 1894.

Wool Pulling.

The woolgrowers recently appeared in force before the Ways and Means Committee. They have, perhaps, the best ground for complaining of a grievance created by existing tariff regulations of any class in this country.

The arranging of a schedule that will do justice to the woolgrowers of the United States in the full sense of the term, seems, at first blush, to be an exceedingly simple undertaking. It is not, however. We must import an immense amount of certain grades of wool, which we cannot grow in this country no matter how high or low the tariff. It is to the greatest good of our woolgrowers that these particular foreign grades should get into this country cheaply. Therefore abundantly they arrive, the more they are used in combination with our special home-grown wools. Their use in this way stimulates the demand for the home product, and actually helps raise the price thereof. But certain grades of these foreign wools slip in as coarse and non-durable, when, in fact, they are quickly manipulated here so as to work up as fine or first-class wools. This is, as held by the woolgrowers, the commercial evil which they wish to destroy by a better schedule on certain coarse, or carpet wools, especially the Chinese coarse wools, which can be and now are put into shape after they pass the custom-house, and compete in the factories with our own home grades. As usual, the Ohio man was very much in evidence before the committee, as a wool-puller. The venerable William R. Lawrence, of whom most Washingtonians know much, was the chief spokesman and shepherd of the woolgrowers' lobby, and he startled Mr. Dingley with his plan of a retroactive tariff law, which, it may safely be predicted, will never be adopted.

Fairbanks is the name of the institution in which Indiana legislators seem likely to keep their Senatorial accounts. If the New York chappies don't want the police to break in on their little coochee coochee dinners, they ought to hold them in a fortress something stronger than Sherry.

The shocking literacy of Mr. Hobart's State is painfully shown in the case of two Newark burglers, who packed a bag full of plated ware out of a house, leaving solid silver glass untouched. New Jersey voted for McKinley.

If you want to see a poem, a symphony, a dream in typographical attachments, visit the G. P. O. proofroom. Mr. Harold

Benedict has made all these things out of the dingy old former room, and really the proofreaders ought to knock off a dollar or so from their salary for the privilege of working in such a delightful place.

The wisecracks declare that the McKinley capital is not to be a Dingley dell.

Weyler ought to throw away his old trochaeus, and get some of those Brown bronchial ones from this country. They might not prove fatal to the insurgents, but they could not be less so than the present variety.

Driven to despair by listening to the rehearsal of after-dinner impromptu witisms, Chauncey Depew's ward has married a count with the interrogative name of Czayhowskiwski!

Gov. Pingree, who also is Mayor Pingree, once was a poor boy. Now he is a Pook Bah.

PEOPLE OF NOTE.

Alphonso XIII, the young king of Spain, was born May 17, 1886, not quite six months after the death of his father, Alphonso XII. He is, therefore, in his eleventh year, and according to the constitution will be of age at sixteen.

Henri Rochefort derives an income of \$50,000 yearly from his transatlantic. The Debats reproaches him with socialism, and with giving no benefit to his employees. It is believed, however, that M. Rochefort is exceedingly generous to political refugees, and he spends carelessly.

Kaiser Wilhelm's jubilee cap, to be raced for by British yachts next summer on the occasion of his grandmother's reign of sixty years, is three feet high. The course of the race will be from Dover to Heligoland.

Paul Bourget defines the American as "a man who invariably uses the newest method."

Joseph J. Nease, the founder of the Alaskan city which bears his name, has just returned to San Francisco, after an absence of thirty years. He first went to California by the old overland trail, in 1851.

Ex-Speaker Reed, referring to his \$3,000 fee as referee for some Massachusetts insurance companies, recently remarked: "It is only when a man is drawing a salary for doing nothing that he feels he is at last receiving what he really deserves."

The pope is said to have asked three visitors recently how long they had been in Rome. They answered, respectively, three weeks, three months and three years. His holiness said to the first: "Ah, you have been in Rome, then?" To the second: "You have begun to see Rome," and to the third, "You have not yet begun to see Rome," meaning, presumably, that the longer one lives in the Eternal City the more he finds to see.

Mr. Strindberg's mother, who was buried in the lovely little cemetery of Bonchurch recently, was a very charming and delightful woman. Even at her advanced age she was considerably over eighty—one preserved a keen interest in literature and art.

Wallace S. Jones, consul general of the United States at Rome, is persona grata at the Italian court. When he was presented to the king and queen the latter asked him about his home in Florida. "We call Florida the Italy of America," said the ready consul.

Deaths of a Day.

The Rev. Dr. M. C. Lockwood, pastor of the Associate Reformed Church, died at Baltimore, Md., of pneumonia. The interment will be at Stamford, Conn.

Mr. Lockwood was born and educated in New York City. His first call was to the First Baptist Church at Paterson, N. J. He remained there two years and went to the First Baptist Church of Albany, N. Y., where he also stayed two years. His next charge was the First Baptist Church at Whitehall, N. Y., where he preached four years. He went from there to the First Baptist Church at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he remained ten years.

He came to Baltimore from Cincinnati to become the pastor of the Associate Reformed Church in September, 1895. He left a widow and three children.

M. Orkerjulf, a Norwegian minister of state from 1871 to 1884, died at Christiania.

Stephen Von Pappay, chief of the private chancery of the Emperor Francis Joseph, died at Vienna. He was credited with having powerful influence with the emperor.

Miss N. C. Wentworth died suddenly in Sandy Hill, Washington county, N. Y. She taught for a number of years in the Upper Iowa University and was a teacher in Virginia before the war. Miss Wentworth had decided literary ability, and for a long time was a contributor to the Troy Times under the nom de plume of Ruth Randle.

Rev. L. N. Worman, one of the best known clergymen in the United Evangelical Church, died at Bethlehem, Pa., after a week's illness of pneumonia. He was sixty-seven years old.

A. W. Davis, aged ninety-three years, the oldest citizen in the county, died at his home, near the Rockbridge Baths, Lexington, Va. He was one of the pioneer iron founders of the valley, and connected with the Jordans, Weavers, and Grubbs, prominent families of that section.

Customs Regulations on the Border. John M. Constock, chief of the customs division of the Treasury Department, has returned to Washington from an extended tour of inspection with reference to customs matters. Frequent conferences with customs officers along the Canadian border concerning the transshipment of goods in bond through Canada with a view to bringing all workings of the system into sympathy, comprised a large part of his work. Mr. Constock's observations will be embodied in a report which he will submit to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Fond of Coffee.

Jabez Balfour, the noted forger, who is in prison in London, seems to be very fond of coffee. One day when fourteen of his fellow-convicts were being marched through the coffee room to prayers, the warden being in the middle of them, Jabez, who was the last man in the file, took advantage of his position to hang back, and was not missed till the rest got into chapel. On returning in search of him the warden was astonished to find that he had gulped down the coffee allowance of the whole fourteen.

Tariff in Front, Cannon in Rear.

"It's all very well," said a friend of Speaker Reed, as he came down from the latter's house, in the Shoreham, "to talk about the success or failure of the Republican party as if it were all bound up in the work now going on in the Ways and Means Committee, but it is not so. The object of the most concern now to thoughtful men in the House, is the appropriation bills."

The speaker was a fine, portly old business man, who rejoined a party of Bostonians in the cafe. They were refreshing themselves over a select spread, after an arduous day's work in Mr. Dingley's committee room.

"I believe," continued the merchant, "that we would have accomplished just as much with that committee if we had signed a statement, and sent it on by mail. It would have saved us our time and the expense, which is something nowadays, to the best of us."

"What makes you think that the tariff is not an object of so much concern to the leaders?" queried one of his listeners.

"Because I gather from what Reed intimates, that they know just what they are going to do, have known practically for some time what shall be done with the schedule. Those hearings are all right, however, in theory. I suppose, indeed I guess, they are necessary for the satisfaction of the public. But, all the same, I am satisfied now that we have not, by personally urging our wishes, influenced the tariff managers any more than if we had written to them. However, it's all right in one sense. It gives the committee the benefit of the daily advertisement that respectable men do want tariff changes and are not afraid to say so."

"What about the importance of those appropriation bills you were talking about?"

"Oh, Reed gave me to understand that if this new tariff bill did not produce revenue enough to run the government during the first year of its operation, then he was in favor of cutting down the expenses of every government department in the country to the notch where its receipts equalled them."

"That will make a high and rank rebellion in the departments, won't it? It will hurt the party, too," rejoined a friend.

"It will hurt the Republican party far more to run behind and then take up bond sales to make the deficiencies good. Why, that policy of Cleveland has completely wrecked a part of the Democratic party, which he persists in calling the real Democracy."

"I want to say to you, gentlemen, and say it frankly, because we are all good Republicans in so far as the tariff is concerned (all I believe in it), that our principles are in the hands of both men. But, talk about work in Dingley's committee, complied with the labor in Cannon's room when he begins to pare down the salaries of those departmental clerks! The deserving ones will have to suffer with the performing ones, and the latter will make a tremendous outcry, because they have nothing else to do."

The well-groomed merchants listened in silence, and before it became oppressive a deep-sighed, stocky member of the party exclaimed:

"Gentlemen, I am very much afraid that we have about reached the end of the tariff rope. I am persuaded against my prejudice for the tariff, to say so here, between ourselves. I am not ready quite yet to get up and say so in public. I am inclined to have one more fair trial of the old policy of high protection before I do abandon it; or, rather, before it is taken by the march of economic conditions from us."

"It won't help us any to complain of what has been done in this country during the last four or five years, which seem to have been hard ones for most of the legitimate business of this part of the world. If we do not make a success of restoring general activity to business, and do it pretty soon, then, I firmly believe that nothing that you or I can do will prevent the silver men from taking the control of this government in 1898 and 1900."

"We have said to our workmen that we have laid them off and have reduced wages because our tariff laws did not properly protect them, and we have all said to them, that with the election of McKinley we will resume work at once and sustain full time."

"A few of us will keep this pledge. A great many of us cannot do it today, but we live in hope. Still, gentlemen, if men are not working they cannot be trusted to reason it all out as we do. They will vote against us next time unless the anticipated work and wages are given them."

"There are so many things looming up right ahead for us to face and settle within the next six months touching this question of whether or not we must reduce wages, how can we raise prices? If we do not reduce wages we must get better prices. It does seem to me that our people are not free buyers today, low as the prices are. They have not the money today."

"A readjustment of wages or a readjustment of values, measured by a standard gold dollar, is in order if we continue the existing financial policy," said the first speaker, "and it remains to be seen whether we can survive it politically as Republicans."

The nuts and bolts came in at this climax, and the tinkling of spoons and the noise of breaking utensils was the only answer that these merchants had to make. Finally one of them said: "I had quite a talk with Senator Chandler this morning. Chandler, you know, is for silver, and he says we have got to have it, peacefully if we can, forcibly if we must. What do you think about it?"

"Good God," replied one, "have we got to go all over that again?"

"It looks very much like it. To tell the truth, I don't think it can be stopped. Chandler says it cannot." So saying, the speaker arose with an audible sigh, and was followed by his hearty companions. As their faces, however, were shaded with a very sober expression, in spite of the rich and generous meal that they had just enjoyed.

Snap Shot Interviews.

Washington is going to have the finest fireworks display in its history during the 4th of March festivities. We think people would be glad to see one good fireworks display. Some of the others that have been given here at inauguration times have been very disappointing. There are a number of the inaugural executive committee who want to spend all the money available on the ball and other festivities for the few. The fireworks are to be for the many. I am contending and making a hard fight, and what I think will be a successful one, for a generous appropriation. The contract will be let to responsible people, who will do what they promise. Every cent that is given to me will have its results. Mind you, I promise that you will see the finest pyrotechnic display Washington has ever had.—MICHAEL I. WELLS, Chairman Fireworks Committee.

No; I do not know that I believe we are to solve the problem of the flying-machine right away. The bill I introduced last week, providing for an appropriation for the benefit of flying-machine inventors, or rather for the making of flying-machine investigations, was put into my hands by one of the flying-machine men. Introduced by request. I do not think I would quite care to ask for money for such enterprises.—HENRY E. BAKER.

Business in the West has been greatly overdone. These failures have almost none of them been unexpected. Most of the banks gotten rid of are well gone. Their absence will do the country an immense amount of good. Just think of a town of five or six thousand inhabitants having five banks. The whole system has been absurd. These failures should not affect the East badly. Surely we have expected too much in expecting an immense McKinley boom. It must come gradually. Business is certainly greatly improved from the summer months. There is no question of this, but the improvement is slow. This is what we should have looked for.—L. A. COOPER, New York broker.

The bad condition of business is the natural ending of the Cleveland administration. Why had we any right to expect a boom while Cleveland was still in the head of affairs? Even now, at this late day, before he goes out, he is likely to do something entirely unexpected. He has been a man of surprises. He may send a special message to Congress on almost anything. If Mr. Cleveland keeps quiet we shall have a McKinley boom after Mr. McKinley is inaugurated.—GEORGE W. SILSBY, Broker.

The Interstate Commerce Commission wishes the amendment of the present interstate commerce law so that the intention of its framers can be carried out. The courts have construed certain clauses of the law into complete ineffectiveness.—EDWARD A. MOSELEY, Secretary Interstate Commerce Commission.

I am compiling a bibliography of the State of Alabama. It is to be incorporated in the papers of the annual meeting of the American Historical Society shortly to be held. It will occupy two hundred or more pages. I have been all over Alabama very thoroughly during my leave of absence from the Postoffice Department; have visited all the courthouses, and libraries, and many old county garrets in search of material. My researches have extended, too, ever far out of Alabama itself, necessarily. There are thousands of titles of books, pamphlets, magazine articles, and even important newspaper articles relating to Alabama and by Alabama people. The work should be of much value to students of the South. I believe.—CHIEF CLERK OWEN, Mailing Division.

The highest score at cocked hat ever rolled on these alleys, and I believe the highest ever rolled in Washington, was made by young Marble, of the Post, the other day. It was fifty-four. This is a remarkable record, if you do not know it.—CABLE, of Cable's Bowling Alley.

What is the use of talking about the Western bank failures? Why cannot our newspaper men let the matters of trouble alone? The discussion of any bad news always makes it worse. The discussion of financial troubles always augments them. We are struggling to get on our feet again in this country and in this city. Every time you publish a story of this nature it makes some one, and maybe many, distrustful and anxious and timid.—BANKER ALBION K. PARRIS.

How many colored Baptist churches do you suppose there are in Washington? Twenty? You certainly wouldn't guess. There are fifty-four; more than any two or three other denominations can muster, perhaps.—WILLIS MARDEN, Postoffice Department.

Bicycling is rather dead at present. The bicycle events are all over for the season, of course. We promise you, however, that there will be a new next season that nothing of '96 can compare with. We are already making our plans, and corresponding with people here and outside of Washington, and early in the spring, probably, you will begin to hear of it in the newspapers. Look for something fine.—PRESIDENT GETTINGER, Arlington Wheelmen.

Ad Libitum.

Editor Times: After the flop of your predecessors on the money question I rarely read an editorial on that or any other subject. I sent to the editor for publication the following, which did not appear.

THE GOLDBRICK DOXOLOGY. Praise gold from whence all blessings flow; Praise gold all people here below; Uphold sound money with a vim—Dum foode, whoop la! ding, dong, bim!

I now read more of the editorials. This morning I was delighted with the one on Senator Hoar. Soon after his abuse of the car conductor I wrote to the latter as follows:

"I am older and slyer than Senator Hoar. If a conductor should help me enter his car, I should smile."

"If The Washington Times has told the truth about Senator Hoar, and I should hear that that conductor had bungled the Senator's eye or smashed his nose, I should laugh." W. H. BURR.

Mr. Kemplar's Statement.

Editor Times: Your reporter made a mistake in regard to the fire in my stock room and workshop. There are no chemicals used there. The fire was caused by sawdust used in packing optical goods, probably a match dropped in during the day or evening, and smothered until 1 o'clock a. m., when discovered by the police. I had no insurance whatever.

H. H. HEMPLEY.

A whirl of business HERE TODAY.



Wind up of the \$6.50 Suit Sale.

Wind up of the \$15 Overcoat Sale.

First of the last of the \$1 Hat Sales.

IN THE

Suit Sale

are enough \$10, \$12.50 and \$15 Single and Double-breasted Sack Suits to supply everybody who comes after one today. May not get just the pattern you want—but you get the value—and that's what makes the bargain. Your choice

\$6.50.

IN THE

Overcoats

there are only 97 of you enjoy this great offering today. The last 97-out of every 100—coats are sure to go before night-fall. Among the finest Overcoats in the house—old for \$25.00, \$25, \$27.50 and \$30 up to last Monday morning. Your choice

\$15.00.

IN THE

Hat Sale

are Derby and Fedoras that were made to set up as high as \$2.50. The hat man has paid his last visit to the market before spring—and this lot of hats is what he was able to close out from three or four of our regular makers. Look at the shapes and shades. Your choice

\$1.00.

Saks and Company,

"Saks' Corner."

CLOAKROOM AND GALLERY.

"I do not believe Secretary Carlisle could possibly be confirmed if nominated as justice of the Supreme Court to succeed Justice Field," said Judge W. B. Fleming, of Kentucky. "The Democratic and silver men in the Senate certainly would not give him this reward for his course."

A prominent Democratic Senator stated yesterday that he did not believe Justice Field would resign. "He has never been an admirer of the President, and some years ago declared he would not give Mr. Cleveland the chance of naming his successor. I do not believe he has changed his mind."

Andrew Jackson died more than a half century ago and the two most conspicuous Tennesseeans of the House, Messrs. Richardson and McMillan, were talking in arms at the time. The two Senators, however, were both at the beginning of their long careers, when the great Democrat passed away.

Senator Isham G. Harris was a young lawyer in active practice, living at Paris, Henry county, Tenn., during the last years of the life of the sage of the Hermitage. But although he was a great admirer of the historic Democrat and met him in his old age, he did not have intimate personal acquaintance, or share in any of his political campaigns, the last of which occurred thirteen years before his death.

Senator Harris' own brilliant public career began soon after the death of Old Hickory. He was a Presidential elector for Jackson's old Secretary of War, Lewis Cass, in 1848, and was elected to Congress the following year. With the close of the Fifty-fifth Congress it will be a full half century since he first entered the House. He antedates even ex-Speaker Grow in his first appearance in the House. They were colleagues in the Thirty-second Congress.

The year after Jackson's death young W. B. Bates entered the Mexican war as a private and served until its close. His public career began in 1848 when he was a member of the Tennessee legislature. He is the only survivor of the Mexican war now in either branch of Congress.

Senator Jones, of Arkansas, leaves for his home next week for the purpose of being present at the session of the legislature which is to name his successor. There is, and has at no time been, any doubt of the result of the election. The Senator will be re-elected, receiving probably a unanimous vote in the Democratic caucus. The new governor of Arkansas, who goes into office this week, is of the same name as the Senator, but not a kinsman. The Senator and governor were formerly law partners. They are both strong silver advocates, and the governor won his nomination by his campaign in the winter of 1895-'96, in which he took the radical position that if the Democratic convention declared for the gold standard he would bolt the ticket. At first this was thought, to be too extreme a stand, but it proved to be a popular and winning one in Arkansas.

Nat Critchfield, of Kentucky, ex-journal clerk of the House, who is in the city, told a Times representative yesterday that there is still hope for the re-election of Senator Joseph C. S. Blackburn.

"There is no certainty," he said, "that Governor Bradley will call a special session of the legislature—or that the Republicans can control the legislature when it meets. In fact, they are now in just about the situation of the Democrats in the legislature one year ago. They have one majority over the Democrats, but to win they must poll for their candidate every Republican vote in the legislature. The fight between Hunter and Bradley is one of the bitterest ever known in Kentucky history. It will be just as hard for these two factions to get together as it was to unite silver and gold Democrats."

Mr. Critchfield says there is every prospect that the Louisville Dispatch, the silver daily, soon to be issued in competition with the Louisville Courier-Journal, will be an unqualified success.

"It is probable that ex-Congressman 'Gus' Enloe, now editor of the Nashville Sun, will conduct the editorial policy of the new paper."

A great treat is promised members of Congress as well as the citizens of Washington generally. It will be sprung on them some day early this month. Chief Clerk Babcock, of the House District Committee, will appear on a bicycle. He is now completing negotiations for the purchase of a wheel. He learned to ride while at Hot Springs during the past few weeks.

Movements of Warships.

The cruiser Minneapolis left Beirut for Tripoli yesterday morning. The flagship San Francisco is at Villefranche, and the only two ships of the Mediterranean squadron now in Turkish waters are the Cincinnati and Hancock at Smyrna, where they have remained immovable since October 14.